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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Guatemala

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SUBJECT Formation of the Alianza de Partidos Democraticos

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1. The Secretaries General of the four official political parties of Guatemala met on the evening of 19 July 1951 in the crystal studio of the national radio station TGO to announce over the network the formation of the Alianza de Partidos Democraticos. The four party leaders were Roberto Alvarado Yuentes, Secretary General of the Partido Accion Revolucionario (PAR) who is also president of the Guatemalan Congress; Alfonso Bauer Paiz, Secretary General of the Frente Popular Libertador (FPL), former Minister of Finance and Public Credit; Oscar Jimenez de Leon, Secretary General of the Partido Renovacion Nacional (RN), and vice president of the Guatemalan Congress; and Niccolas Broll, Secretary General of the Partido Integridad Nacional (PIN), and Minister of Agriculture. Also present were the secretaries of Foreign Relations, Economy and Labor, the Interior, and of Public Education.
2. Francisco Fernandez Fonseca, a deputy in the Guatemalan Congress, read the joint statement of the four parties, which began by saying that they were not Communists, or anti-Catholic, and that they had been branded as Communists by reactionaries. The constitution of Guatemala guaranteed unrestricted freedom of religion, Fernandez continued, and that right the united democratic parties respected. However, they were united to defend the legally constituted government of Colonel Jacobo Arbenz, and to see that he would be able to carry out the government program he had so patriotically pledged himself to do. He made it clear, however, that each of the four parties would continue to work independently and in accordance with its own ideology, and that the Alianza had come into being only to support and defend the government of Colonel Arbenz.
3. The next speaker, Professor Alfonso Molina Flores, Secretary of Propaganda of the PIN, ratified the joint statement for his party. Manuel Galich, Minister of Foreign Relations, and Humberto Gonzalez Juarez, member of the Political Commission of the party, who spoke for Major Carlos Paz Tezada,* the chief of the Office of Propaganda and Publicity of the Presidency, both expressed great satisfaction over the formation of the Alianza de Partidos Democraticos, and agreed that it not only guaranteed the internal security of the country but also guaranteed support for Colonel Arbenz and any foreign agreements his government might have made or had now under consideration.

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Comment: It is noted that Major Paz Tezada has not attended the

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Communist gatherings since his assumption of his cabinet post, but has sent his assistant to represent his ministry.

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